

4 July 1974

Dear Harold:

I was able to locate carbons of your HEW conversation notes without difficulty, thanks to the approximate date you were able to supply. While I was at it, I worked back through the files (three of them) for two months and then forward for two more to make sure not to miss any antedecedent or subsequential material, but found none. I did find a couple of tangent notes on Hunt/Caddy et al which might be useful and attach them behind the HEW material. Hope this stuff is helpful.

We like very much your new title for your transcript book, "I Am Not a Crook," which tells it all. If you have to have a subtitle, how about "and Other Sayings of Richard M. Nixon." Your own suggestion for a subtitle, "The Sayings of Chairman Richard," strikes us as wrong for some of the same reasons we have been arguing about all along. Let me elaborate a little on this at the risk of being tiresome. In the first place it is historically obscene to equate a twerp ~~with~~ ^{like} Nixon in any way with a man of Mao's stature, however indirectly. In the second place, the combination of "sayings" and "chairman" not only does this gratuitously, but also through the use of "sayings" perpetuates the sneer that lay behind the Confucius Say jokes, some of which were once quite funny but which long since have given away to a general willingness to concede that the Chinese are fully human, at least capable of using the language properly. "Sayings" in reference to anything about Mao's book is totally inaccurate, the actual term used being "quotations," never sayings. Finally, we suggest that you wouldn't title your book, "I Am Not a Crook; The Gospel According to St. Richard., would you? Well, any tie-up between him and Mao seems to us to be almost as inappropriate and for comparable reasons. Anyway, we're glad you've got it done and hope very much it gets the ride it deserves. The idea is very good, and we agree with you as to its usefulness and potential influence. If it gets any distribution attention at all it ought to go well. The ideal would be at supermarket checkout stands along with Readers Digest and Woman's Day, where housewives especially could encounter it. I suspect very few don't have their doubts about "I Am Not a Crook." That's a good title.

We missed the Cavett Show with Marchetti et al, not learning about it until after it was aired here. Thanks for offering the tape, but it sounds marginal and we don't have the time. For the past several weeks we have had almost 3 1/2 hours of listening to do daily, as KPFA has been running a 2 1/2 hour Impeachment Watch with long feeds from Washington, with an hour of undiluted news sandwiched in. They now have six people in the Pacifica bureau in Washington, and they've been scoufing the woods ~~xxxx~~ for interviews with anyone willing to talk about Watergate and related subjects. In case you're interested, the three best interviewers are Dennis Leavitt, Paz Cohen (a lady) and Jeff Loeb, all very competent.

We tape this stuff and then listen during dinner and afterward; we're able to skip much of it, but it still takes time. Several times we've been tempted to sic some of these people on you through the local station manager, but remembering how busy you are we figure it's better to let you decide if you want to contact them. No idea where the bureau is, some hole in the wall probably, but Ma Bell should have their number if you're interested. The KPFA people are somewhat high on Mae Brussel, and need balancing material from someone who is more judicious and balanced.

Also enclosed are some odds and ends, nothing very noteworthy but in general things you should see.

Agree that the new interest in you well could be from the climbing plumbers, which seems especially probable if you are correct in your belief that there's an attempt to use you.

Best,



jdW